

To: The Judiciary Committee

Subject: HP321/ LD 492 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and the Judiciary Committee. My Name is Craig Caffrey of Bowdoinham and I've written this testimony in support of HP321/ LD 492 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights

The state of Maine and its leadership lost all moral and ethical high ground when they forcibly limited parents or guardians' rights to their children's upbringing, education, and overall general welfare. For the past several years we've witnessed Maine parents have their philosophical and religious rights removed for educational, medical and vaccinations decisions and then were labeled "anti-education," "anti-vax," "anti-science" anti-(fill in the blank) when they questioned or stood firm against this overreach.

Maine's forced mandates during corvid that included masking, social distancing, forced absenteeism, and fear mongering was nothing short of medical negligence and government oppression. Yet, again, those who questioned or stood firm against this overreach were labeled "anti-vax," "anti-science" anti- (fill in the blank) and at times were threatened by government officials and ridiculed on social media and purposely fractured communities. These draconian measures did little to nothing to prevent corvid or it being spread. However, it did elevate fear, panic and resentment that further divided our community. I believe this was the main intention.

The Maine government and its failed leadership took it a step further to chip away at parental rights with such bills as LD 227 An Act Regarding Health Care in the State and its forced manipulation, exploitation, mutilation and sterilization of minors under the gross negligence called "gender affirming care." Any parent or guardian who dared push back or fought for their child were threatened, doxed, harassed and labeled (transphobe, n@zi, homophobe, and the list goes on). Now we watch those who strive to compete in sports have their medals and honors stolen by those who are allowed to lie, cheat and steal by this very state government.

Parental rights are absolute and should be honored in all aspects of their child's life, including, but not limited to their education, medical care, upbringing, discipline and general well-being. The State of Maine needs to honor, and ensure these rights are upheld and shall never be questioned. Period.

I urge this committee to vote "OUGHT TO PASS" on HP321/ LD 492 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights.

Thank you for your time,

Craig Caffrey

Bowdoinham